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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/613,814	07/11/2000	Toshio Kobayashi	2038-247	1159

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EXAMINER

GUARRIELLO, JOHN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/613

Applicant(s)

Kobayashi et al.

Examiner

John Grunwiler

Group Art Unit

1721

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 1-4
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

15. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

16. Claims 1, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 3, it is not clear what the phrase “sheet-like” encompasses since the term “like” modifies sheet so that the metes and bounds of the claim are somewhat indefinite when applied to the rest of the claim “fibrous assembly”.

In claim 11, lines 4 and 6, it is not clear what is encompassed by “JIS Z 0208” and “JIS L 1092” since the specification does not explain what the standards are, support or evidence for this should be submitted.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

17. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 96/38620.

WO'620 describes a laminate material having stretchability and recovery, breathability and barrier properties, (see abstract). WO'620 describes a nonwoven elastomeric web having at least one web of textile material discontinuously adhesive bonded to each side, (see abstract). WO'620 describes the basis weight in the range of 6.8 to 204 g/ square meter, (page 11, lines 32-33). WO'620 describes polyester fabric, (page 12, lines 9-14), which fiber is a continuous fiber material, (page 12, lines 13-15).

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WO'620 describes polyester yarn or polypropylene spunbonded layers, (see page 16, Examples 1 and 2). WO'620 describes the essential limitations of the claimed invention. Claims lack novelty.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

18. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

19. Claims 5, 6, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strack et al. 5,681,645.

Strack describes laminate material with stretchability and recovery, breathability and barrier properties, (see abstract). Strack describes a non-woven elastomeric web having at least one web of textile material discontinuously bonded to each side, (see abstract). Strack describes the laminate with at least two textile webs, a non-elastic textile web with stretch

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and recovery characteristics, and a textile web with non-woven elastomeric web properties, (column 5, lines 58-67). Strack describe the various kinds of elastomeric web materials, (column 6, lines 22-67). Strack describes the use of the adhesive which laminates the webs together so that the elasticity of the laminate will not be interfered, i.e. interfere with recoverability, (column 9, lines 35-61). Strack describes the use for the laminate, garment with thermal insulation and a dirt barrier to protect the wearer, while having breathability for comfort, (column 11, lines 42-46). Strack differs from the claimed invention because it is silent about the orthogonal stretchability.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to approximate the orthogonal stretchability motivated with the expectation that Strack describes (machine and cross direction, column 9, lines 14-23, like orthogonal stretchability) power recoverability is added to these materials to the extent that they stretch, (column 9, lines 18-19).

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20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Guarriello whose telephone number is (703) 308-3209. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris, can be reached on (703) 308-2414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-5408.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



John J. Guarriello:gj

Patent Examiner

June 23, 2002



TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700